

RESOLUTION 14-__

REQUESTING THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO IMMEDIATELY PROVIDE FULL FUNDING FOR THE PAYMENT-IN-LIEU-OF-TAXES PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Payment-In-Lieu-of-Taxes (PILT) program was established in 1976 to offset costs incurred by counties for services provided to the federal government and to the users of federal lands located within a county; and

WHEREAS, the State of Arizona contains 113,417 square miles of land, with federally owned land, excluding tribal lands, comprising 42 percent of the land mass, while private land in Arizona comprises only 17 percent, and

WHEREAS, the County of Cochise is comprised of 3,980,160 acres of which 900,209 acres is federally owned land, representing 22.62 percent of the County land mass; and

WHEREAS, the national average PILT payment in Fiscal Year 2013 was \$0.66 per acre, far below the amount federal lands would return through both value based taxation and economic development, and

WHEREAS, Cochise County is required to provide law enforcement, search and rescue, emergency services, road building and maintenance, and other community services on, or associated with tax-exempt federal public lands, and

WHEREAS, Congress failed to provide funding for the PILT program in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014, jeopardizing PILT funding for Cochise County that in 2013 totaled \$1,986,080, the loss of which is estimated to result in a loss of some 36 County government jobs, causing great uncertainty about county finances and services in Fiscal Year 2014 and Fiscal Year 2015; and

WHEREAS, a lack of PILT funding places the large, unsustainable burden of providing services on federal lands squarely on the back of Cochise County tax payers, while the presence of that federal land creates barriers to further economic opportunities; and

WHEREAS, failure to provide PILT funding to Arizona counties in a timely manner will critically impact the budget process and structural solvency of Cochise County, and substantially compromise the county's ability to provide essential services; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Supervisors of Cochise County hereby respectfully requests that the United States Congress provide full funding to the PILT program for Fiscal Year 2014 without delay, and find a solution for sustainable funding into the future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Cochise County strongly urges Senator John McCain, Senator Jeff Flake, and Rep. Ron Barber to appeal to Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry Chairwoman, Senator Stabenow (MI), and Ranking Member, Senator Cochran (MS), and to the House Committee on Agriculture Chairman, Representative Lucas (OK-3), and Ranking Member, Representative Peterson (MN-7), to include a renewal of the PILT program for Fiscal Year 2014 in the final Farm Bill conference report, and to advocate for sustainable funding into the future.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Cochise County Board of Supervisors, this 28th day of January, 2014.

Ann English, Chairperson

Cochise County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Arlethe Rios,
Clerk of the Board

Adam Ambrose,
Civil Deputy County Attorney

Dated this 28th day of January 2014.